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(54) Title: HEPATITIS C VIRUS ASSAY SYSTEMS

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention features assays employing a beta-lactamase reporter system, an HCV replicon enhanced cell, and/or a chimeric HCV replicon containing a 3' UTR based on the HCV-1a 3' UTR. These features can be employed alone or together, and are preferably combined together to measure HCV replicon activity and the affect of compounds on such activity